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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
<http://sociology.du.ac.in/sociological-research-colloquium/>

FRIDAY, 29TH APRIL 2022 AT 3:00 PM
Srinivas Seminar Room, Department of Sociology

**GEETIKA
BAPNA**



**MARITAL BIOGRAPHIES OF A HOUSEHOLD:
THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF A MORAL VERB**

Abstract:

My research has focussed on the everyday conduct and achievement of marriage as a form of life. The hard-working companion concept that aids both practitioner and ethnographer in figuring marriage as an ethical domain of thought and practice is *nibhana*. As a named moral verb for the lived and the imaginary of marriage, *nibhana* offers conceptual companionship in the ethnographic field by accentuating the imperative that marriage *is* life. It does not, however, articulate its relation in the same way in crises and remains silent when marriage faces death. My presentation takes this in-articulateness of *nibhana* back to the ethnographic field to ask: How might *nibhana* co-exist with marital crisis and impasse? Through the ethnographic portrait of an inter-religious household, I will show how *nibhana* alters its conceptual shape when facing impasses, continuing to abide by life but allowing for its re-singularization.

The Speaker:

Dr. Geetika Bapna is an independent sociologist. She did her PhD from the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, and was a post-doctoral Junior Research Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (2018-20). Her long-term research on marriage is based on an ethnography of *Nibhana*. Dr. Bapna is presently working on her monograph, and is planning to start an ethnographic concept journal devoted to writings by children and the young.